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TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 7844

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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PASS: NSF FOR STEVER, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR CONGRESSMEN DOWNING AND MOSHER, EUR/RPE FOR LAMB, OES FOR HEMILY, NSF/STPO FOR GRANGER, OFFICE OF BUSINESS PRACTICES FOR LOCKWOOD, BOND, USMISSION EC BRUSSELS FOR DAVIDOW, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, ANTITRUST DIVISION, USMISSION ECE GENEVA, AIDAC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, OECD
SUBJECT: OECD COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY: SUMMARY REPORT ON MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, JUNE 24-25, 1975

REF: OECD PARIS 16623

1. SUMMARY. THE FOLLOWING REPORT SUPPLEMENTS THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH WAS GIVEN IN REF TEL. THE HIGHLIGHT WAS US PROPOSAL FOR AN OECD INITIATIVE TO INTENSIFY COOPERATIVE RESEARCH ON THE TOTAL FOOD SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

2. OECD MINISTERS OF SCIENCE MET ON JUNE 24-25 TO DISCUSS "SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COMPLEX PROBLEMS". THE CANADIAN MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DRURY, WAS CHAIRMAN, AND THE AUSTRALIAN AND ITALIAN MINISTERS, CAMERON AND PEDINI, WERE VICE-CHAIRMEN. THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WAS LED BY DR H. GUYFORD STEVER, SCIENCE ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT, ADVISED BY CONGRESSMEN DOWNING AND MOSHER, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

3. DISCUSSION OF THE GENERAL THEME WAS BROKEN DOWN INTO SIX MAIN ISSUES EACH BEING INTRODUCED BY A VOLUNTEER MINISTER: (A) THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN POLICY MAKING (AUSTRALIA), (B) MANAGEMENT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE RESEARCH SYSTEM (FRANCE), (C) SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY (GERMANY), (D) NEED FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (NETHERLANDS), (E) NEW VISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES (US), COMBINED WITH (F) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE LEAD STATEMENT, INCLUDING A MAJOR PROPOSAL UNDER COMBINED ISSUES (E) AND (F) (SEE BELOW), THE US SPOKE TO OTHER ISSUES AS FOLLOWS: (A) ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN POLICY MAKING.

CONGRESSMAN MOSHER DESCRIBED CURRENT TRENDS OF THOUGHT
IN THE US, BOTH IN CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION,
WITH RESPECT TO CHANGES IN SCIENCE POLICY MECHANISMS,
AIMING GENERALLY AT CLOSER INTEGRATION OF SCIENCE
POLICY WITH THE OVERALL NATIONAL POLICY AND SOCIETY.
CONGRESSMAN DOWNING SPOKE TO AND UNDERScoreD THE US
POSITION OF STRONG SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
OF SOCIETAL NEEDS, FOR INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS TO MEET
THOSE NEEDS, AND FOR IMPROVING RESEARCH UTILIZATION AND
INNOVATION IN THIS CRUCIAL FIELD. (D) NEED FOR PUBLIC
INVOLVEMENT. BENGELSDORF (OES) EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR
COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF OECD MEMBER-COUNTRY PRACTICE,
POINTING OUT THAT THEORIZING ABOUT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
IS ONE THING, USUALLY VERY DIFFERENT FROM REAL-LIFE
SITUATIONS. OECD MIGHT WELL UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF DIFFER-
ENT METHODS OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RELATED TO THE COM-
PARATIVE EVALUATION OF MEMBER COUNTRY PRACTICE, AND TO

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THE INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATION CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO
DEAL WITH DIFFERENT APPROACHES.

5. THE US PROPOSAL FOR AN OECD FOOD INITIATIVE WAS
PRESENTED BY DR. STEVER IN THE FRAMEWORK OF HIS LEAD
STATEMENT ON "A NEW VISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES" WHICH
HE DEALT WITH FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF INTENSIFIED INTER-
NATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION. (DETAILS OF US
PROPOSAL ARE GIVEN IN STATE 133814, REPEATED TO ALL
OECD CAPITALS.) CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WAS EXPRESSED IN
THE US PROPOSAL, WHICH WILL BE DEVELOPED BY THE
SECRETARIAT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE OECD DIRECTORS OF
AGRICULTURE AT THEIR FALL 1975 MEETING. NO COUNTRY
EXPRESSED OPPOSITION, BUT OF THE FOURTEEN MINISTERS WHO
REFERRED DIRECTLY TO THE US FOOD PROPOSAL ALL BUT ONE
(AUSTRIAN MINISTER) WERE CONCERNED THAT INTENSIFIED
COOPERATION BE CARRIED BEYOND OECD, INVOLVING FAO AND
OTHER APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE
AUSTRIAN MINISTER MADE VERY CLEAR HIS PREFERENCE FOR
"GETTING ON WITH THE JOB" IN THE OECD, AND, WITHOUT
OPEN CRITICISM, MADE NO SECRET OF HIS FEELING THAT THE

FAO IS TOO LARGE AND UNWIELDY TO INITIATE THE SPECIAL KIND OF COOPERATION ENVISAGED BY THE US. HE ENJOINED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO MOVE QUICKLY, STATING THAT "THE EYES OF THE THIRD WORLD ARE ON THE OECD", WHERE CONCRETE ACTION IS EXPECTED TO DEAL WITH THE INCREASINGLY URGENT WORLD FOOD PROBLEM. THIS, HE CONCLUDED, WOULD BE IN LINE WITH THE RECENT INITIATIVE OF THE OECD MINISTERS TO ESTABLISH HIGH LEVEL GROUPS ON COMMODITIES AND NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS RESPECTIVELY. THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTER, ALTHOUGH NOT OPPOSING THE US PROPOSAL, FELT STRONGLY THAT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE RECENTLY CREATED WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, MIGHT BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO MANAGE

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SUCH AN INITIATIVE. IN A SECOND INTERVENTION, HE AGREED WITH OTHER MINISTERS IN REQUESTING THAT THE PROPOSAL BE DEVELOPED IN DETAIL, AND SUBMITTED TO THE OECD DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH. (THE SECRETARY-GENERAL COMMITTED HIMSELF TO DEVELOPING THE US PROPOSAL TO THIS END, BUT THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ENSURE THAT THE INITIATIVE AT THE SCIENCE MINISTERIAL IS FOLLOWED UP RAPIDLY BY A FURTHER DRAFT SUBMISSION, WORKED OUT IN DETAIL IN COLLABORATION WITH USDA, FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE SECRETARIAT IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER.

6. THE SECOND US PROPOSAL WAS THAT THE CSTP, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE OECD INDUSTRY COMMITTEE (A) UNDER-TAKE AN ANALYSIS OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT WILL INFLUENCE THE CHARACTER OF THE DEMAND FOR MATERIALS IN OECD COUNTRIES, AND (B) DEFINE POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVED FLEXIBILITY IN MEETING SUCH FUTURE DEMAND THROUGH MATERIALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE EFFICIENCY OF MATERIALS UTILIZATION AND RECOVERY, AND ON POSSIBILITIES OF SUBSTITUTION. THIS PROPOSAL ALSO AROUSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST, WITH SEVERAL REQUESTS FOR MORE DETAILS. (DEPARTMENT MAY AGAIN WISH TO ENSURE THAT A MORE DETAILED PROPOSAL IS PREPARED IN TIME FOR THE OCTOBER CSTP MEETING).

7. MISSION COMMENTS. DURING AND AFTER THE MEETING, MANY PERMDELS - REFLECTING THE VIEWS OF THEIR MINISTERS - EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION THAT THE US HAD PROVIDED CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR IDENTIFIABLE CSTP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN 1976 AND BEYOND. OTHER "HARD" ISSUES WERE OF COURSE MENTIONED - TECHNOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT CAME UP SEVERAL TIMES AS AN INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT METHODOLOGY; A STRONG STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTER AT THE OUTSET OF THE MEETING ON THE NEED TO

CONTROL MNES SO AS NOT TO INHIBIT INDIGENOUS SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY WAS NOT FOLLOWED-UP BY OTHERS; THERE WAS
HIGH INTEREST IN CONTINUING THE COLLECTION AND
ANALYSIS OF R AND D STATISTICS, AND STRONG EMPHASIS
OF THE NEED FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ENLIGHTENMENT
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WITH REGARD TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE DECISION
PROCESS, AND EFFECTS ON SOCIETY. BUT,
ENVELOPING ALL THESE, AND EVEN THE US PROPOSALS, WAS
THE ISSUE OF HOW TO HARMONIZE RELATIONSHIPS WITH
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO INTEGRATE THEIR
RESOURCES AND OECD TECHNOLOGY IN A MANNER SATISFACTORY
TO BOTH SIDES. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION,
EXPRESSED STRONGLY BY THE NORWEGIAN AND NETHERLANDS
MINISTERS, WELL SUPPORTED ROUND THE TABLE, TO ANY

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SUGGESTION OF QUID PRO QUO IN THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY
TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

8. IN THIS RESPECT, PARAGRAPH 136 OF SPT/MIN(75)4,
THE BACKGROUND PAPER ON "SCIENCE POLICY AND THE MANAGE-
MENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES", WAS STRUCK OUT, SINCE MANY
FELT IT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
AS OFFENSIVE TO THEM. DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE
U.S. PROPOSAL ON FOOD, THE TURKISH MINISTER, WHILE
FULLY SUPPORTING THE PROPOSAL, INDICATED HIS
ASSUMPTION THAT NO SUGGESTION OF REQUESTING A QUID PRO
QUO FROM THE LDC'S WAS IMPLIED. THE U.S. SHOULD BE
PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THIS KIND OF ATTITUDE IN THE JULY
17-18 MEETING TO BE HOSTED BY OECD/CSTP FOR UNCTAD
GROUP B COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS THE GROUP OF 77 DRAFT CODE
OF CONDUCT FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES (SEE STATE 130636, OECD PARIS 15927, STATE
152204, OECD PARIS 16930). THE JULY 17-18 MEETING AND

FOLLOW-UP IN OCTOBER WILL BE BOTH A PRELUDE TO THE
NOVEMBER EXPERT GROUP SESSIONS, AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF OECD'S FUTURE PROGRAMS ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.
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